

Washington, D.C. 20505

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OS REGISTRY

* FILE Legal 3/EO 1203
Section 3-403Also: Personnel R
Also: Committees 16A
Also: Comm. Hqs 17A

The Honorable Robert J. Lipshutz
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Bob:

The President's letter of 19 September, copy enclosed, implemented Section 3-403 of Executive Order 12036 by establishing a standard that prescribes the manner in which Agency activities of questionable legality or propriety are to be reported to the "appropriate congressional committees." I assume that for these purposes the "appropriate congressional committees" are the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, there being no others mentioned in Section 3-403.

As you know, during my confirmation hearings before the SSCI in February 1977, I made certain commitments with respect to the reporting of questionable activities. A copy of the relevant portion of the hearing transcript is enclosed. Even apart from these commitments, I believe the two oversight committees would have a clear right to be informed regarding the reporting standard established by the President. Under the circumstances, given that the President's standard does not coincide in all respects with my commitments, it seems to me imperative that the committees be informed. Accordingly, it is my suggestion that you transmit copies of the President's letter to the SSCI and HPSCI, together with a covering note of some sort, or that you authorize me to do so. I would appreciate it if you would let me have your reaction to this suggestion.

Yours,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosures

OGC:AAL:sin

1 - DDCI 1 - ER via Ex Secty

1 - IG 1 - OLC

1 - OGC Subj: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence ✓

1 - c.r. OGC Subj: House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

1 - AAL signer

1 - Chrono